



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yoshitaka SASAKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3599

Application No.: 10/057,946

Examiner: A. Tugbang

Filed: January 29, 2002

Docket No.: 111836

For: THIN-FILM MAGNETIC HEAD AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING SAME,
AND SLIDER OF THIN-FILM MAGNETIC HEAD AND METHOD OF
MANUFACTURING SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the April 20, 2004 Restriction and Election of Species Requirement,
Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-3, 8 and 10-18, with traverse.

The Office Action indicated that if Group I is selected, an Election must be made between the following: Species A, directed to Figures 1-28; Species B, directed to Figures 29 and 30; Species C, directed to Figures 31 and 32; and Species D, directed to Figure 33. Thus, Applicants provisionally elect Species A, Figures 1-28, with traverse. At least claims 1-3, 8, 10-16 read on Species A. At least claims 1-3, 8 and 10-13 are generic to all Species.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-32 and species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims or species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims and species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the

search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction and Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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